

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 3108, Pension Funding Equity Act.

The House passed S. 610, NASA Workforce Flexibility Act of 2003—clearing the measure for the President.

The House passed S. 1920, to extend for 6 months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S293–S331*

**Measures Introduced:** Six bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2034–2039, S. Res. 293–294, and S. Con. Res. 87. **Pages S320–21**

#### Measures Passed:

**Pension Funding Equity Act:** By 86 yeas to 9 nays (Vote No. 5), Senate passed H.R. 3108, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily replace the 30-year Treasury rate with a rate based on long-term corporate bonds for certain pension plan funding requirements and other provisions, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S294–S304**

#### Adopted:

Grassley Amendment No. 2233, of a perfecting nature. **Pages S294–98**

#### Rejected:

Specter Amendment No. 2263 (to Amendment No. 2233), to provide for the restoration of certain plans terminating in 2003 (upon division, a majority of the Senators present and not having voted in the affirmative, Senate failed to agree to the amendment). **Pages S296–97**

Kyl Amendment No. 2236 (to Amendment No. 2233), to restrict an employer that elected an alternative deficit reduction contribution from applying for a funding waiver. **Pages S297–98**

**Safe Transportation Equity Act:** Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1072, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs. **Pages S328–29**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill and, in accordance with the provisions of

Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Monday, February 2, 2004. **Page S328**

**Messages From the President:** Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Presidential Determination 2003–39 relative to classified information concerning the Air Force's Operating Location Near Groom Lake, Nevada; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (PM–60)

**Page S319**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a statement of justification relative to the Australia Group chemical and biological weapons nonproliferation regime; to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (PM–61)

**Page S319**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By unanimous vote of 95 yeas (Vote No. 6), Gary L. Sharpe, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

**Pages S304–307, S330**

22 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.  
7 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Navy.

**Page S331**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Linda Mysliwy Conlin, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2007.

Eugene Hickok, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary of Education.

Pamela M. Iovino, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional Affairs).

Alphonso R. Jackson, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, MarineCorps.

Pages S329–30

Messages From the House: Page S320

Measures Referred: Page S320

Executive Reports of Committees: Page S320

Additional Cosponsors: Page S321

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S321–26

Additional Statements: Pages S318–19

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Pages S326–27

Authority for Committees to Meet: Page S327

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—6) Pages S299, S307

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 11 a.m., and adjourned at 6:42 p.m., until 11 a.m., on Thursday, January 29, 2004 for a pro forma session. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S329.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### WMD

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine efforts to determine the status of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction and related programs, after receiving testimony from David Kay, former Special Advisor to the Director of Central Intelligence on Strategy Regarding Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction Programs.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee ordered favorably reported 4,763 nominations in the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Francis J. Harvey, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration, and Lawrence T. Di Rita, of Michigan, to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs; and William A. Chatfield, of Texas, to be Director of Selective Service, after each nominee testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### NASA

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the future space mission of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), focusing on exploration activities in low Earth orbit, the space shuttle, the International Space Station, the Moon, Mars and other destinations, space transportation capabilities supporting exploration, and international and commercial participation, after receiving testimony from Sean O'Keefe, Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Louis D. Friedman, Planetary Society, Pasadena, California; Neal Lane, Rice University Department of Physics and Astronomy, Houston, Texas; Howard E. McCurdy, American University Department of Public Administration School of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.; and Richard Tumlinson, Space Frontier Foundation, Nyack, New York.

### PAKISTAN AND INDIA

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing regarding steps toward rapprochement in relation to Pakistan and India from members of the intelligence community.

### PAKISTAN AND INDIA

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine steps toward rapprochement, focusing on the aversion of nuclear war, the status of Kashmir, prospects for détente, and controls against arms proliferation, after receiving testimony from Frank Wisner, American International Group, New York, New York; Stephen P. Cohen, Brookings Institution, and Michael Krepon, Henry L. Stimson Center, both of Washington, D.C.

### HEALTH CARE COSTS

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine health issues relating to health care costs and the uninsured, focusing on inefficiencies in America's health care delivery systems, after receiving testimony from Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Director, Congressional Budget Office; Arnold Milstein, Pacific Business Group on Health, San Francisco, California; Karen Davis, The Commonwealth Fund, New York, New York; Christopher J. Conover, Duke University, Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Durham, North Carolina; and Gail R. Wilensky, Project HOPE, Bethesda, Maryland.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported S. 1721, to amend the Indian Land Consolidation Act to improve provisions relating to